

cleared, the birds disappearing with it. We probably saw between five hundred and one thousand Phalaropes during the hour that they were in the harbor.

May 23.—Thick fog and driving rain with moderate wind until about 8 A. M., after which the rain and wind ceased; but the fog continued nearly two hours longer until driven away by a fresh west wind which rose rather suddenly. Fishermen who landed at 7.30 reported immense numbers of 'bank birds' resting on the water less than half a mile from shore. This was something entirely unheard of, and created much interest among the men gathered about the wharf waiting for the weather to moderate. The 'white bank birds' (*Phalaropus lobatus*) sometimes come within less than a mile of shore, but the "brown ones" (*C. fulicarius*) they said had never before been seen in this region except at sea. Taking a dory we soon found a flock resting on the water only a few hundred yards from the end of the wharf. There were certainly one hundred and fifty individuals in this flock—perhaps twice as many. The number could only be guessed at, as the birds were very restless and much scattered, while new arrivals constantly came in to increase the confusion. The flocks moved slowly to windward, bunches of a dozen or more birds continually rising from behind and flying to the front. For the next two hours Phalaropes were constantly in sight, either resting on the water or flying about in every direction, mostly in large flocks, but frequently singly. They were very unsuspecting, allowing the dory to approach within fifteen or twenty yards before taking alarm. Their only note was a single *chip* like that of *P. lobatus*, and somewhat resembling a note of *Calidris arenaria*. While the fog was most dense some of the flocks settled on the water within fifty yards of the ends of the wharves, but as the air cleared they drew away from shore, and later could be seen rising through the rapidly disappearing fog. After circling about until well oriented, they flew off over the town in the most direct line for the open ocean, and when the fog finally cleared none were left in the harbor. A few, however, could still be seen out in the bay where the fog still lingered. It was impossible to get any adequate idea of the number of birds seen during those two hours. Two thousand would be a very low estimate, and I doubt whether double that number would be much too high.

Scattered about among the *Crymophilus* were a few *Phalaropus lobatus*, in about the proportion of one to twenty. The smaller species was very conspicuous on account of its snowy white breast.

This unusual occurrence so near shore of a species almost pelagic in its habits in this latitude, is of course to be accounted for by the sudden arrest of the northward migration by the easterly storm and fog. The latter was probably the more important cause as fog accompanied by a very light wind even, appears invariably to have more influence than wind alone on the movements of migrating Limicolæ.—GERRIT S. MILLER, JR., Cambridge, Mass.

Pavoncella pugnax in North Carolina.—I wish to record the capture of a

female Ruff near here on May 6, 1892. I was wading a fresh water marsh, not more than a mile from town, after marsh birds in general, and while I was struggling through the mud, water and cat-tails, a Sandpiper passed behind me. It had apparently flushed from a patch of bare mud about twenty yards from where I then was, and I at once set it down as a Lesser Yellowlegs, both from its size and its flight. It uttered no cry. After circling around the further edges of the marsh, it turned and headed, straight as an arrow, to where I crouched, so that when shot it fell in the water within reach of where I stood. I identified it as a Ruff, and, to make sure, it was sent to Mr. Robert Ridgway who promptly confirmed the identity. The bird was in fair condition, somewhat below the average of our spring shore-birds in this respect, but not by any means poor. The ova were somewhat enlarged, the largest being about the size of No. 6 shot.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, North Carolina*.

Correction.—In my article on the Black-bellied Plover, on page 148 of 'The Auk' for April, 1892, speaking of the abundance of these birds in the neighborhood of Tuckernuck Island, Mass., it reads, "from a flock of about twenty-five birds, which served as the nucleus, they continued to increase until six to eight hundred had collected, the average number in the spring for fifteen years previous being two to three hundred." It should read, "They continued to increase until about two or three hundred had collected. The average number in the spring for fifteen years previous being about one hundred." On page 143 it reads, "The adult female is rather smaller than the male." It should read, "The adult female is about same size as the male. These errors are entirely my own.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Lagopus lagopus in Maine.—A male Willow Ptarmigan in full winter plumage was shot at Kenduskeag, Maine (a village about eight miles from Bangor), on April 23, 1892. It was brought into this city to be mounted. The man who killed it reported that it showed little or no alarm at his approach, and in fact seemed quite as tame as a domestic fowl. This is, I believe, the first instance of this species being taken in Maine, and will therefore probably be of interest.—HARRY MERRILL, *Bangor, Maine*.

Occurrence of the Black Gyrfalcon in Rhode Island.—I beg to report the occurrence on November 22, 1891, of the Black Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus obsoletus*) on the little island of Conanicut near Newport, Rhode Island. The specimen secured was a female, in splendid black plumage. It was shot while perched on a haystack on Capt. Audley Clarke's farm, not far from Jamestown, which is a seaside town right opposite Newport on Conanicut Island in Narragansett Bay. The person who shot it